

THE BECKHAM



OBSERVER

BECKHAMBIRDCLUB.ORG
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

MAY 2016

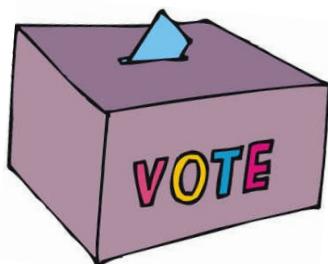
KDFWR Migratory Bird Program in Photos

By John Brunjes

I have been so lucky to be able to pursue a career which has been one of my great loves since I was a small child, the conservation and management of birds. In addition to being a biologist, I have a passion for bird photography and sharing the work we do on migratory birds thru photography. I will update the club on a couple of projects that the migratory bird program is currently working on. The program continues to put significant effort into protecting nesting sites of least terns; the only Endangered bird species to nest in Kentucky. Beyond terns, I will share photographs of the work we do on other bird species across the Commonwealth and talk a little bit about the photography I do.

Join us at the Clifton Center on Payne Street on Tuesday, May 10 at 7:00 p.m.

June Picnic Reservation form on page 5 so keep reading!



TUESDAY, MAY 10
VOTE AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING
FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS
OF BECKHAM BIRD CLUB

Candidates for 2016 to 2017 are the following:

President – Carol Besse

Directors –Pat Bell and Joanne Luyster

Vice-president – Jamie Baker

Secretary –Jean Jones

Treasurer – Tom Ackerson

Rand Falls and Jane Bell will continue on the board for another year. Rob Lane will continue on the board as past-president. Their duties will begin on June 15.

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

It is critter time so don't forget the insect repellent.



PLEASE READ THE FIELD TRIPS GUIDELINES. THANKS!

Please note: There will be a field trip to the new Botanica at Frankfort Ave and River Road on Thursday, May 12 led by Rob Lane. More details about the trip will be posted on birdKY,

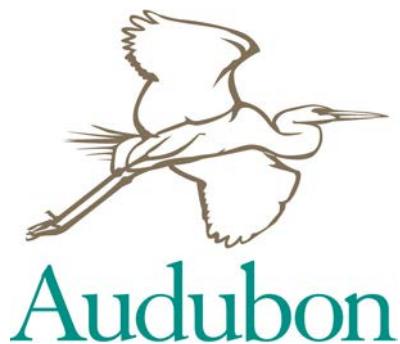
Saturday, April 30 8:00 a.m. - Noon	TURKEY RUN PARK - The Parklands newest park. Meet at the parking lot at the silo. This trip is rated moderate difficulty – the trails are hilly.	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Sunday, May 1 8:30 a.m. – 11 a.m.	JOE CREASON PARK / BEARGRASS NATURE PRESERVE – Meet at the Metro Parks Administration Bldg. off Trevillian Way	Rand Falls 540-798-4985
Saturday, May 7 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	ANCHORAGE TRAIL - Meet at the trailhead in Anchorage at the intersection of Evergreen Rd and Station Rd.	Pat & Jane Bell 502-326-9610
Sunday, May 8 8:00 a.m. – Noon	POPE LICK PARK (formerly Floyds Fork Park) – From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd, go toward Fisherville,, turn right on S. Pope Lick Road.	Andrew Melnykovich 502-608-4655
Thursday, May 12 9:00 a.m. – Noon	BERNHEIM FOREST – Meet at the Bernheim Forest arboretum parking lot.	Bill Friel 502-203-4109
Saturday, May 14	GLOBAL BIG DAY - Many trips and a compilation get-together are planned. See below for all the details.	
Sunday, May 15 8:00 a.m. – Noon	CHEROKEE PARK / NETTELROTH – Meet at the foot of Maple Road Bridge 5.	Jamie Baker 502-403-9845
Saturday, May 21 8:00 a.m. - ??	POPE LICK PARK (formerly Floyds Fork Park) – From Gene Snyder get off at Taylorsville Rd, go toward Fisherville, turn right on S. Pope Lick Road.	Rob Lane 205-276-9580
Sunday, May 22 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	JOE CREASON PARK / BEARGRASS NATURE PRESERVE – Meet at the Metro Parks Administration Bldg. off Trevillian Way	Jamie Baker 502-403-9845

Saturday, May 28 8:30 a.m. – Noon	CAVE HILL CEMETERY— Meet inside the front gate on Baxter Avenue.	Rob Lane 205-276-9580
Sunday, May 29 8:30 a.m. - Noon	ANCHORAGE TRAIL - Meet at the trailhead in Anchorage at the intersection of Evergreen Rd and Station Rd.	Carol Besse 502-387-5971

GET INVOLVED IN THE GLOBAL BIG DAY

On May 14 the second Global Big Day will take place. We want you to get involved by helping us count as many species of birds we can find in Jefferson County to help Cornell make it the biggest day of birding the world has ever seen. We will start our big day at Pope Lick Park at 8:00 a.m. and from there go to other hot spots looking for birds. Some likely places are Beckley Creek, Cherokee Park, Melco, and the Ohio River but we may go other places. You may bird as long as you want or join us along the way. You can find out where we are by calling Pat at 502-419-5262. Bring lunch, water, snacks, etc. and a two-way radio if you have one. It is easier to keep everyone together with the radios.

It will be lots of fun so make plans to join the group to count birds. You are asked to keep your own tabulations for ebird. After the count we will meet to tabulate the count at Pat and Jane Bell's home. Pizza and soft drinks will be served but if you want beer to go with your pizza you will have to bring your own. Donations will be accepted to help Beckham cover the cost of the pizza and drinks. Please email us if you plan on coming to the final count at patjanebell@bellsouth.net. For those who are not on the internet call us at 326-9610. We do need to know how many are coming so we can order enough pizza and drinks. Thanks! Hope to see you on the Global Big Day.



Tuesday, May 17, 2016, will be our annual meeting and board elections. If you have an interest in serving on the LAS Board of Directors, please contact us at LouisvilleAudubon@gmail.com. Join us at 7 p.m. at Beargrass Christian Church, 4100 Shelbyville Road, Louisville, for this important meeting. At our May meeting, Susan Brown, Director of Environmental Education at Pine Mountain Settlement School in eastern Kentucky, will present a discussion about land preservation and conservation efforts in the Pine Mountain corridor, including a new citizen-science lichen monitoring project. She will describe the many ecosystem services lichens provide, such as this project's focus: to survey them as indicators of air quality.

Have you made your pledge to Birdathon?

PAST FIELD TRIPS

Garvin Brown/Hays Kennedy, March 26

Upon arriving, the group of 9 birders found Blue and Green-winged Teal and Tree and Northern Rough-winged Swallows along the wet area. Moving into the preserve, birds were scarce but Golden-crowned Kinglets and White-throated Sparrows provided entertainment with their displays. The Red-winged Blackbirds were on territory but no Rusty Blackbirds could be found. On the river, Lesser Scaup were found along with distant Bald Eagles displaying and chasing one another. Other birds of interest were an American Kestrel, a Ruby-crowned Kinglet and a Brown Thrasher providing the group with 41 species.

Cherokee Park/Nettelroth, March 27

Six BBC members enjoyed a clear early spring morning walk in Nettelroth Sanctuary and the paths along Beargrass Creek near the athletic fields. We saw no unusual species; however, we were delighted to find two Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers that were the first of the season for most of the group and we took as a welcome first sign of spring migration. We saw evidence of the start of breeding season with several species pairing up and investigating nesting options including a pair of Wood Ducks in a tree, copulating Downy Woodpeckers, and the arrival of Brown-headed Cowbirds. Robins, Cardinals and Goldfinches were the most abundant species. We had hoped-for a Louisiana Waterthrush and Yellow-throated Warblers but they were yet to arrive.

Sloughs WMA, April 9

Fourteen of us braved the frigid conditions to bird the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA. "Marshing" was slow, but persistence yielded looks at four Soras in flight; one very nicely studied Virginia Rail that accommodated us by landing in a tree line and freezing in the open for 15 minutes, an American Bittern, and a Le Conte's Sparrow. Raptors were highlighted by a Northern Harrier and a locally nesting pair of Bald Eagles. Shorebirds were also constant companions. We had 8 species including at least 50 American Golden-Plovers, a few nearing high alternate plumage, dozens of Greater Yellowlegs, 200-250 Lesser Yellowlegs, 200-250 Pectoral Sandpipers, at least 22 Dunlin, and at least 3 Long-billed Dowitchers. A couple of walks along the woods edges yielded looks at several Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, a Hermit Thrush, and a Yellow-throated Warbler. We also heard a Marsh Wren but didn't want to completely trample its patch of sedges just to force him out of cover.

Beckley Creek Grand Alee, April 16

Nice crowd (17 members) on a beautiful day. Spring had definitely arrived, with migrants and incoming summer residents in evidence, along with lingering winter visitors. Together, they made for a nice total of 53 species though nothing unusual was seen. Highlights were great looks at a beautiful Broad-winged Hawk moving up in a thermal and a Spotted Sandpiper on a gravel bar in Floyd's Fork. Warbler highlights included a singing Northern Parula and Yellow-throated Warbler.

Cherokee Park/Nettelroth, April 17

Five BBC members enjoyed a beautiful morning with several spring migrants found. Blue-grey Gnatcatchers were abundant. Parula and Yellow-throated Warblers were singing away but aside from a single Yellow-rumped, they were the only two warblers found. Other early migrants included Wood Thrush, Broad-winged Hawk, and Chipping Sparrows. Several “late” finds were Junco, Winter Wren and White-throated Sparrows.

Mammoth Cave NP – April 23

It took a lot of hard work but the 18 observers on the BBC trip to Mammoth Cave National Park found 70 species in all. Many summer residents had returned including 13 species of warblers. Phoebe and Great Crested Flycatchers and Eastern Kingbirds were present. Three species of Vireo were added to the list. Wood Thrushes sang their beautiful song at several different areas of the park. Scarlet Tanagers decorated the trees with their brilliant red and black colors. Indigo Buntings were another highlight of the day. Although birds were not as numerous as in past years it was great day to be out in the great outdoors.



The Annual Beckham Bird Club
Picnic will be at Pope Lick Park
on Sunday, June 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Join us at the Community Center for a fun afternoon of food, birding and friend ship. Bring a dish to share, insect repellent and, of course, your binoculars. Cost is \$3.00 per person (includes chicken, drinks, etc.) or \$1.00 (no chicken, but covers cost of drinks, etc.)

PICNIC RESERVATIONS – DEADLINE June 3

NAME _____ PHONE _____

I will bring __ salad/vegetable __ desert __ other(_____)

Number attending at \$3.00 _____

Number attending at \$1.00 _____

Total \$ _____

Make check payable to **Beckham Bird Club**. Mail to Pat Bell, 1876 Dove Creek Blvd, Louisville, KY 40242-3492

